

CMPT 376W Reading What Makes Excellent Technical Explanation?

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Pattern & Characteristics of excellent technical answers

- Better formatting
 - The person who answered those question have a good knowledge of using README or Markdown formatting
 - Titles are clearly bolded and enlarged
 - Create clickable link for more information
- Have answer in different difficulties
 - It has beginners, intermediate and advanced
 - Allows both beginner and advanced developer to understand the solution
- Answer is in great detail
- Acknowledge the problem of the user who asked the question
 - Reiterate the main idea of the problem
- Show variety of ways to solve it
 - In case if one way doesn't work, they can use the alternative way to solve it.
- Show/explain basic concept that the person ask should know
 - Provide background needed to understand the problem
 - Provide code examples for user to better understand the solution

Pattern & Characteristics of poor technical answers

- Give a vague definition when explaining solution
- Many concepts left unclear
- Answer that was false
- Shorthanded jargon with no explanation
 - RDBMS
 - What is Lucene/Solr?
- Answer that is not related to the problem
- Lack formatting
 - Only bullet points
 - No titles
- Only provide personal opinions and no facts
- Did not reference the link where user can find more detail